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ABSTRACT

This book has been conceived as a companion to learnability for the benefit of those linguists who base their work on Chomsky's "Principles and Parameters Hypothesis." General concepts from formal theory and complexity theory and important facts from psycholinguistics, historical linguistics, and language processing have been introduced in a tutorial and completely self-contained fashion, so as to introduce linguistics of the parametric persuasion to important techniques that can be used to obtain interesting and empirically testable predictions from parametric theories of language variation. The book is divided into the following five chapters: "A Brief Overview of Learnability" (Stefano Bertolo); "Learnability and the Acquisition of Syntax" (Martin Atkinson); "Language Change and Learnability" (Ian Roberts); "Information Theory, Complexity, and Linguistic Descriptions" (Robin Clark); "The Structural Triggers Learner" (William G. Sakas, Janet D. Fodor). A detailed subject index is also included. (Contains 209 references.) (KFT)

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